

# BEETHOVEN

PIANO CONCERTO NO.4  
SYMPHONY NO.5

“FATE”

YUAN-KAI BAO

CHINESE SIGHTS  
AND SOUNDS

CONDUCTOR: KELLY LIN  
PIANIST: DAVID XU

Photo by Blair Hansen

Lagom  
Philharmonic  
Orchestra

X  
1 by Infinity

HARMONY

ACROSS

CULTURE

# LAGOM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

KELLY LIN  
HAN XIANG (DAVID) XU

| CONDUCTOR  
| SOLOIST

H A R M O N Y   A C R O S S   C U L T U R E

## **YUAN-KAI BAO** **CHINESE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS**

LITTLE CABBAGE (小白菜)

JASMINE (茉莉花)

GOING TO THE WEST GATE (走西口)

## **LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN** **PIANO CONCERT NO.4, OP. 58**

I. ALLEGRO MODERATO

II. ANDANTE CON MOTO

III. RONDO (VIVACE)

*Intermission*

## **LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN** **SYMPHONY NO. 5** **IN C MINOR "FATE", OP. 67**

I. ALLEGRO CON BRIO

III. ANDANTE CON MOTO

III. SCHERZO: ALLEGRO

IV. ALLEGRO



# PROGRAM NOTES

## **Yuan-Kai Bao** **Chinese Sights and Sounds**

WHILE IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT CHINESE COMPOSERS ARE RARELY PROGRAMMED ON THE CANADIAN STAGE, GUEST CONDUCTOR KELLY LIN IS PROUD TO COLLABORATE WITH LAGOM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA AND SHARE THE MUSIC OF THE RELATIVELY UNKNOWN AND UNFAIRLY OVERLOOKED COMPOSER BAO YUANKAI. HAVING CHOSEN TO COMBINE TRADITIONAL MUSIC - IN THIS CASE, CHINESE FOLK SONGS - WITH A WESTERN AESTHETIC, CHINESE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS IS A SUITE FOR ORCHESTRA, IN WHICH EACH MOVEMENT OFFERS A VARIETY OF MUSICAL SNAPSHOTS OF LANDSCAPES, LAND, PEOPLES, AND THEIR STORIES WITHIN CHINESE CULTURE. THE FIRST MOVEMENT, LITTLE CABBAGE, EXPRESSES THE PAIN OF A BOY AT THE HANDS OF HIS ABUSIVE STEPMOTHER AND HIS DESIRE TO ESCAPE THIS GRIM REALITY. THE MELODY OF JASMINE, PLAYED BY THE VIOLIN AND VIOLA, REPRESENTS A YOUNG GIRL WHO SEES HERSELF AS A JASMINE FLOWER AND DREAMS OF ROMANTIC LOVE. GOING TO WESTGATE IS A FOLK SONG THAT DEPICTS THE MIGRATION OF THE POOR FROM THE HIGHLANDS IN SEARCH OF A BETTER LIFE, AND, IN PARALLEL, THE MUSIC ADOPTS THE SHANXI AIR WITH THE THEME OF THE SAD SEPARATION BETWEEN TWO LOVERS.

# PROGRAM NOTES

## **LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN** **PIANO CONCERT NO.4, OP. 58**

MARTHA ARGERICH ONCE DESCRIBED BEETHOVEN'S PIANO CONCERTO NO. 4 IN G MAJOR AS "AN OPERA WITH ONLY ONE CHARACTER — THE PIANO." TRUER WORDS WERE NEVER SPOKEN. COMPOSED BETWEEN 1805 AND 1806, THIS WORK IS A TOUR DE FORCE, TRANSFORMING THE PIANIST INTO A VIRTUOSO PERFORMER AND A CAPTIVATING STORYTELLER.

IN A DARING DEPARTURE FROM CONVENTION, BEETHOVEN GIFTS THE PIANO THE OPENING NOTES, THRUSTING THE SOLOIST IMMEDIATELY INTO THE SPOTLIGHT. IT'S A PROFOUND CONVERSATION STARTER, PAVING THE WAY FOR A DIALOGUE WITH THE ORCHESTRA THAT'S MORE LIKE A HIGH-STAKES EMOTIONAL DANCE THAN A POLITE CHAT.

FROM THAT MOMENT ON, THE CONCERTO IS A ROLLER COASTER OF PASSION AND POETRY, INTERSPERSED WITH MOMENTS OF DELICATE INTIMACY AND POWERFUL DECLARATIONS. THE PIANIST NAVIGATES THESE CONTRASTING LANDSCAPES, COMPELLING THE LISTENER TO ACCOMPANY THEM ON A BREATHLESS JOURNEY THROUGH BEETHOVEN'S MUSICAL NARRATIVE.

IN THIS MASTERPIECE, THE PIANO DOESN'T JUST PLAY; IT SPEAKS, ARGUES, WHISPERS, AND SINGS. THE FOURTH CONCERTO REMINDS US THAT BEETHOVEN'S MUSIC IS NOT JUST HEARD; IT'S EXPERIENCED, AND IT'S THE PIANIST'S ROLE TO GUIDE US THROUGH THIS UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE.



# PROGRAM NOTES

## **LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN** **SYMPHONY NO. 5** **IN C MINOR "FATE", OP. 67**

LET US WALK THROUGH THE TUMULTUOUS YET TRIUMPHANT WORLD OF BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONY NO. 5 IN C MINOR. LIKE A STORM IN SOUND, THIS SYMPHONY OPENS WITH THE FAMOUS MOTIF "DA-DA-DA-DUM"—AN EMBODIMENT OF FATE KNOCKING AT THE DOOR.

FROM THE FIRST MOVEMENT, THE ORCHESTRA AND I TRAVERSE THE TEMPEST, THREADING THE POWERFUL INTENSITY OF BEETHOVEN'S MUSICAL NARRATIVE. WE NAVIGATE THROUGH THE STORMY SEA OF SOUND, THE ORCHESTRA RESPONDING AS A UNIFIED CREW TO THE RHYTHMIC WAVES THAT SHAPE THIS ICONIC PIECE OF HISTORY.

SOON, WE FIND OURSELVES IN THE GENTLE EMBRACE OF THE ANDANTE, A MOMENT OF PEACE AMID THE STORM. THE ORCHESTRA EASES INTO THE SERENE MELODIES AND RICH HARMONIES, ALLOWING YOU A BREATH BEFORE WE EMBARK AGAIN INTO THE WILD.

BUT THIS TRANQUILLITY IS SHORT-LIVED. WE ARE THROWN BACK INTO THE GUSTS OF MUSICAL INTENSITY WITH THE THIRD MOVEMENT, THE SUSPENSE BUILDING LIKE THE WIND BEFORE THE TEMPEST'S CLIMAX—THE ORCHESTRAL PULSE QUICKENS IN ANTICIPATION, AMPLIFYING THE ENERGY UNTIL WE'RE SWEEPED INTO THE TRIUMPHANT FINALE.

AH, THE FINALE! GUIDING THE ORCHESTRA THROUGH THIS EUPHORIC WHIRLWIND OF SOUND IS AN EXHILARATING EXPERIENCE. THE SYMPHONY CONCLUDES WITH AN EXPLOSION OF JOY IN C MAJOR, A BEACON OF HOPE AFTER THE STORM, A TESTAMENT TO OUR SHARED RESILIENCE.

TONIGHT, WE'RE NOT MERELY PERFORMERS AND LISTENERS BUT FELLOW EXPLORERS NAVIGATING BEETHOVEN'S VAST SEAS OF SOUND AND EMOTION. SO JOIN US ON THIS THRILLING JOURNEY AS WE BRAVE THE TEMPEST AND REACH THE GLOWING SHORES OF VICTORY TOGETHER. ENJOY THE ADVENTURE!



A DISTINGUISHED FELLOW OF TAPESTRY OPERA'S WOMEN'S MUSICAL LEADERSHIP (WML) PROGRAM, KELLY LIN IS PART OF ONE OF CANADA'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS INITIATIVES FOR FEMALE CONDUCTORS. KNOWN FOR HER CAPTIVATING, MAGNETIC, AND INSPIRING INTERPRETATIONS, THIS CHINESE-CANADIAN MAESTRO ENJOYS AN ACTIVE PERFORMING CAREER ACROSS CANADA AND BEYOND. LIN IS COMFORTABLE ACROSS A VAST REPERTOIRE, FROM TIME-HONOURED CLASSICS TO INNOVATIVE CONTEMPORARY PIECES. FURTHERMORE, SHE IS A DEDICATED ADVOCATE FOR UNDER-REPRESENTED VOICES IN MUSIC, A COMMITMENT SHE HAS EXEMPLIFIED AS THE FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF LAGOM MUSIC SOCIETY. KELLY LIN IS MORE THAN JUST A CONDUCTOR; SHE IS A BEACON OF CHANGE IN CLASSICAL MUSIC, GUIDING THE SYMPHONIC CONVERSATION TOWARD NEW, INCLUSIVE HORIZONS.

KELLY LIN IS NOT JUST A CONDUCTOR BUT A FORMIDABLE FORCE IN CLASSICAL MUSIC. HONOURED AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE ESTEEMED HNATYSHYN FOUNDATION - CHRISTA AND FRANZ-PAUL DECKER FELLOWSHIP IN CONDUCTING, KELLY'S IMPRESSIVE CREDENTIALS ECHO HER UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO MUSICAL EXCELLENCE.

EQUIPPED WITH MASTER'S DEGREES IN ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING FROM THE SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND PIANO PERFORMANCE FROM MCGILL UNIVERSITY, KELLY LIN HAS HONED HER CRAFT UNDER THE MENTORSHIP OF WORLD-RENOWNED CONDUCTORS. SHE'S EARNED SCHOLARSHIPS, INCLUDING AN ENTIRE RIDE FROM MCGILL UNIVERSITY, DEMONSTRATING HER EXCEPTIONAL TALENT.

LIN'S CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE COVERS ORCHESTRAS AND ENSEMBLES ACROSS CANADA AND INTERNATIONALLY, WITH APPEARANCES AT MAJOR MUSIC FESTIVALS. HER RECENT ROLES INCLUDE BEING A CONDUCTING FELLOW AT PROMINENT PROGRAMS AND WORKING WITH ESTEEMED ORCHESTRAS AND ENSEMBLES. ADDITIONALLY, SHE'S BEEN AN ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR TO NOTABLE FIGURES LIKE HOLLY MATHIESON AND GUILLAUME BOURGOGNE. HER UPCOMING WORK INCLUDES ASSISTANT CONDUCTING FOR VANCOUVER OPERA'S PRODUCTION OF MOZART'S MAGIC FLUTE, MARKING YET ANOTHER MILESTONE IN HER FLOURISHING CAREER.





YOUNG STEINWAY ARTIST HAN XIANG DAVID XU IS AN ACTIVE CHINESE CANADIAN CONCERT PIANIST, RECORDING ARTIST AND EDUCATOR WHO MAINTAINS DEEP INTEREST AND EXTRA-MUSICAL POSSIBILITIES IN OTHER ART FORMS, INCLUDING BALLET, PAINTING, AND TAICHI. XU IS HEAVILY INFLUENCED AS A MARTIAL ART PRACTITIONER; HIS MMUS DISSERTATION WAS ON TAICHI PRINCIPALS AND PIANO PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUES. FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, XU HAS STUDIED MANY OTHER MARTIAL ARTS STYLES AND EVEN RECEIVED HIS CERTIFICATE AS A PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTOR FOR FUNCTIONAL RANGE CONDITIONING. TO GO FURTHER WITH HIS RESEARCH ON THE SUBJECT, XU TOOK ANOTHER MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE FROM THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC. HIS THESIS IS ON THE EXPERIENCE OF FUNDAMENTAL MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING FOR YOUNG CONCERT PIANISTS.

AFTER MOVING TO VANCOUVER WITH HIS FAMILY AT 11, DAVID STUDIED WITH CANADIAN CONCERT ARTIST IAN PARKER BEFORE STUDYING AT THE EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC, WHERE HE STUDIED WITH PROFESSOR REBECCA PENNEYS. HE CONTINUED HIS STUDIES AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC IN LONDON, UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF PASCAL NEMIROVSKI, AND GRADUATED WITH HIGH HONOURS.

XU HAS GIVEN FREQUENT RECITAL TOURS ACROSS CHINA OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, WITH STOPS IN MAJOR CITIES LIKE BEIJING, TIANJIN, SHENZHEN, CHONGQING, XIAMEN, AND GUANGZHOU. HIS ALBUM SONATAS ON CANVAS RECEIVED PRIZES IN THE GLOBAL MUSIC AWARD CATEGORIES: CLASSICAL SOLO PIANO, ALBUM, AND EMERGING ARTIST. HIS NEW ALBUM UNATTAINABLE ILLUSION JUST RELEASED IN 2023, EXPLORES THE MUSIC OF RAVEL, TAKAMATSU AND CHOPIN. HE IS A PRIZE WINNER IN MANY COMPETITIONS, INCLUDING THE ROME INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION, INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION, PARIS GRAND PRIZE VIRTUOSO, AND CANADIAN MUSIC COMPETITION. IN 2019, HE WAS INVITED TO FEATURE IN A NEW JAGUAR COMMERCIAL FOR THEIR NEW XFL SEDAN.

ASIDE FROM BEING A CONCERT PIANIST, HE IS ALSO AN EDUCATOR. XU HAS RECENTLY BEEN ADJUDICATED IN MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITIONS, SUCH AS THE CANADIAN STEINWAY VIRTUAL COMPETITION AND VIVACE INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION.

# ORCHESTRA MEMBERS

## VIOLIN 1

- 1 ANDY KIM
- 2 I-HSIN WU
- 3 CHRIS KIM
- 4 DAVID SONG
- 5 SHIJIN KIM
- 6 KARINA SLUPSKI
- 7 ADRIAN KWAN

## VIOLIN 2

- 1 SARAH WESTWICK
- 2 MOLLY MACKINNON
- 3 ALEX ZHANG
- 4 JOON JEONG
- 5 SOPHIA CHO
- 6 MICHELLE GAO

## VIOLA

- 1 JACOB VAN DER SLOOT
- 2 ERIN MACDONALD
- 3 LUDMILLA KRANECK
- 4 CALVIN YANG

## CELLO

- 1 JUDY LOU
- 2 JENNIFER MOERSCH
- 3 AIRELEEN ZHU
- 4 REGINA ZHANG

## DOUBLE BASS

- 1 REMY XIA
- 2 MARLENA LOEWEN

## FLUTE

- 1 LEI LEI
- 2 ISABELLA WARK
- 3 SABRINA MO (PICCOLO)

## OBOE

- 1 EMMA RINGROSE
- 2 SAYAKO LEZNOFF

## CLARINET

- 1 JACK LIANG
- 2 YEN HAN CHEN

## TRUMPET

- 1 CANDICE NEWBERRY
- 2 NIKOLAJ HANSEN

## HORN

- 1 JASON FORD
- 2 MADDIE DAVIS

## BASSOON

- 1 ISAAC BULL
- 2 OLIVIA MARTIN

## TROMBONE

- 1 JIM HOPSON
- 2 TONY TANG
- 3 WILL BROVERMAN

## TIMPANNI

- YUEYI LIU

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